

*Says Erskine Is "The Pride Of Anderson" And "All That Is Good About Indiana"*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Congressman Mike Pence issued the following statement congratulating Carl Erskine of Anderson on being awarded the 2010 Sachem Award, the highest honor for Hoosier citizens:

**"Carl Erskine is an icon, and deservedly so. An athlete of the highest caliber, his legacy will be defined not only by his feats on the pitcher's mound as an All Star ace, but perhaps more importantly by his leadership and excellence in business, community involvement, personal generosity and faith.**

**"A graduate of Anderson High, a veteran of Major League Baseball and also of World War II in the Navy, he is the pride of Anderson. A devoted and loving father, he has inspired me and countless other Hoosiers with his volunteer service to the Special Olympics. He rightly shares this award with his dear wife Betty; together they have personally modeled the kind of love and care for family - particularly for their children Gary, Danny, Susie and Jimmy - that I strive for myself.**

**"I commend Governor Mitch Daniels on this most excellent choice for our state's highest honor and this second consecutive selection from the Sixth Congressional District confirms what I have been saying for years: that some of the most decent, hard-working Hoosiers can be found in East Central Indiana.**

**"Carl and his beloved Betty represent all that is good about Indiana and I thank them today for making our community, state and nation richer in every way that matters."**

**SACHEM AWARD BACKGROUND (COURTESY OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE):**

In 1970, Governor Edgar D. Whitcomb introduced the "Confederacy of the Sachem," a group of

business, industry, publishing, banking and legal leaders, who served as state hosts, welcoming visitors to Indiana and promoting the state's culture and economy. The organization's name came from the Algonquin term applied to village leaders, implying wisdom, judgment and grace.

Bylaws outlined that Sachems were to nominate and recommend Sagamore appointments to the governor. The Sagamore of the Wabash dates to the term of Indiana Governor Ralph Gates in 1945 and has been the state's highest honor bestowed by the governor.

Following Whitcomb's term, the Sachem project was not pursued, and the organization dissolved in 1989. Whitcomb visited Daniels in 2005 to acquaint him with the concept and to give him custody of remaining Sachem funds. Governor Daniels recreated the Sachem to underscore the importance of moral example; achievement alone without exemplary virtue does not qualify a person for this recognition.

Each Sachem honoree receives a specially-designed sculpture that captures the Native American heritage of the Sachem. All Sachem recipients will be selected by Indiana's governor.

For additional background information on Carl D. Erskine, contact our office. A digital photo of the Sachem sculpture may be found at: [http://www.in.gov/gov/uploads/Sachem\\_award.jpg](http://www.in.gov/gov/uploads/Sachem_award.jpg).

Photos of Erskine are available here: <http://www.carlerskine.com/photo.htm>